



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Eighth Grade Students Explore Options

Eighth grade students and their parents will experience a number of changes as they create plans for high school and beyond and select endorsements in accordance with the proposed House Bill 5. Goose Creek CISD is providing various activities to help with this process for these students, who will be high school freshmen in 2014-2015.

The proposed graduation plan will require 8th grade students to earn an endorsement with 26 credits. Endorsements offered are Arts and Humanities, Business and Industry, Multi-Disciplinary Studies, Public Services, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). In December, eighth grade students participated in a Career Cluster Activity in Naviance, a program used to provide information and track student progress toward high school goals and college and career readiness. This activity helped them determine the endorsements for which they show an interest and to help them continue to explore their potential careers.

Earlier this year, College Fair Night was held for GCCISD students at Goose Creek Memorial High School, and 8th Grade Student Transition Meetings are in progress at the junior school campuses to explain the new high school plans.

On Thursday, February 13, all district parents and students are invited to the 3rd Annual Career Night at Robert E. Lee High School from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Along with providing information for 8th grade students and parents, the event will include sessions for seniors and their parents about local scholarships, FAFSA, ApplyTexas and college essays. Juniors ready to start exploring college options will also benefit from the sessions.

Eighth grade students will attend High School Orientation at high school campuses February 17, and parents will be invited at 6:30 p.m. that evening to an 8th Grade Parent Elective Night, which will showcase all available electives. Information about applying for IMPACT Early College High School will also be provided to 8th grade students.

Along with the electives and endorsements available for students to choose, Goose Creek CISD will launch three college and career academies in the fall of 2014, focusing on one high-demand career field and linked to the new HB5 endorsements.

These academies will provide opportunities for students, who already have a strong connection to a career path, to learn in the context of a particular career theme and work in a small cohort group with students who share similar interests.

Students will be exposed to a variety of careers, industry skills, and potential employers, with the opportunity to earn certifications.

A team of teachers will work in collaboration to provide experiences and assignments for the academy students based on real-world activities. Core and elective teachers will provide an integrated approach to their subjects and across-the-curriculum projects.



Sherry Otahal (left), Cedar Bayou Junior School instructional specialist, discusses academic options with 8th grade students (l to r) Maricela Perez and Emily Berry.

Additionally, post secondary and career-based activities, such as job shadowing and field trips, are planned for academy students. These academies will promote stronger partnerships with business and industry. All three academies will offer dual credit opportunities through GCCISD's partnership with Lee College. All high schools will continue to offer the same programs of study and classes, but incoming freshmen students also have the opportunity to apply to the academy offered on their high school campus. The deadline for 8th grade applications for the academies is Friday, February 14, 2014.

Goose Creek Memorial High School will house the Global Business, Logistics, and Tourism Academy. Students will be exposed to career pathways in accounting, global business management, finance, hospitality and tourism logistics.

Robert E. Lee High School will offer the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academy. Students who attend the STEM Academy will pursue career pathways in engineering, process technology, instrumentation, and other STEM-related fields.

Ross S. Sterling High School will provide the Health Science Academy. Students in this academy will pursue career pathways in pre-medicine, nursing, sports medicine, pharmacy technician, and other health-related fields.

"Goose Creek CISD is providing numerous opportunities for 8th grade students and their parents to obtain information about the proposed graduation plans and endorsements, along with other options, such as Career and Technical Education classes, academies, and IMPACT Early College High School," said Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Goose Creek CISD superintendent. "We are well-prepared to comply with the requirements of House Bill 5, and we are excited about the numerous opportunities for students to excel."

For more information, please contact the Career and Technical Education specialist or the grade level counselor at Goose Creek Memorial, Robert E. Lee, or Ross S. Sterling high school.

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